



Legislative  
Service  
Bureau

# MINUTES

## Studies Committee of the Legislative Council

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May 27, 1998

Fourth Meeting of 1997-1998

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### MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Chuck Gipp, Chairperson	
Senator Stewart Iverson, Jr., Vice Chairperson	
Senator Nancy Boettger	Representative Dennis Cohoon
Senator Michael Gronstal	Representative David Schrader
Senator Johnie Hammond	Representative Harold Van Maanen
Senator Mary Kramer	

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### MEETING IN BRIEF

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Organizational staffing provided by  
John Pollak, Committee Services  
Administrator, (515) 281-3818

Additional staffing and minutes  
prepared by Michael J. Goedert,  
Senior Legal Counsel (515) 281-  
3922

1. **Procedural Business.**
2. **Review of Studies.**
3. **Funding Requests.**
4. **Revision in Studies Guidelines.**
5. **Loess Hills Area Conference.**
6. **Materials Received by the Committee.**
7. **Attachment.**

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### COMMITTEE BUSINESS

#### 1. **Procedural Business.**

The fourth meeting of the Studies Committee of the Legislative Council for 1997-1998 was called to order by Chairperson Representative Chuck Gipp at 11:08 a.m. on Wednesday, May, 27, 1998, in Room 118 of the State Capitol in Des Moines, Iowa.

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## **Studies Committee of the Legislative Council**

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**Minutes Approved.** Upon motion of Senator Kramer, the minutes of the November 25, 1997, meeting were approved without objection.

**Adjournment.** The Committee was adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

### **2. Review of Studies.**

Chairperson Gipp distributed a listing of actions proposed by him and Senator Iverson. The listing is on file with the Legislative Service Bureau.

**Taxation Task Force.** Chairperson Gipp noted that the Task Force to Study Iowa's System of State and Local Taxation seeks authorization for five meeting days during the interim to complete its work. He added that this is the same number of days the Task Force met during the 1997 interim. Senator Gronstal moved that authorization be granted. The motion was seconded and adopted unanimously.

**School Finance Working Committee.** Vice chairperson Iverson stated that it has been requested that a committee to conduct a comprehensive study of school finance be authorized as soon as possible. Six meeting days would be authorized with two being held in Des Moines and the rest in other areas of the state. In addition, Senator Iverson proposed that up to \$150,000 be available for expenses of the committee. In response to a query from Senator Gronstal, Senator Iverson said the \$150,000 to be authorized was the amount authorized the last time the General Assembly studied the school aid formula and that prior to actual expenditure, approval of leadership would be required. Senator Hammond wondered if this committee would provide a recommended formula for the next session. Chairperson Gipp answered that that would depend upon when the committee filed its report since the Senate wanted the committee to report by 1999 and the House by 2000. Senator Gronstal moved this proposal, which was adopted without objection.

**Child Welfare Services Work Group.** A proposal was made to reauthorize the Child Welfare Services Work Group without legislative members as was the situation previously. Senator Hammond noted that interested legislators were receiving updates on this committee by mail. The Work Group would complete its work and report to the Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Human Services by January 1999. This proposal was moved by Senator Gronstal and adopted unanimously.

### **3. Funding Requests.**

**Child Protection Study Review.** The Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman, Mr. Bill Angrick, spoke on the need for outside assistance to aid his office in reviewing the state's child protection system as required in S.F. 2359. In response to Representative Van Maanen, Mr. John Pollak of the Legislative Service Bureau stated that S.F. 2359 required that a study be done contingent upon the Legislative Council authorizing funding. Senator Gronstal moved to table the motion for the authorization of funds because he was not sure what the study will encompass and, along with Senator Hammond, why \$150,000 is really needed. Mr. Angrick said this type of review must be done under federal law and that the \$150,000 amount was listed as the maximum amount that would be available to



pay outside help under the request for proposals sent out by his office. In addition, Mr. Angrick explained that outside assistance could be retained as late as the end of June without affecting the study's reporting date of February 1999. Senator Hammond expressed interest in receiving a document explaining how the funding would be used. Senator Gronstal renewed his motion for tabling the proposal until the next meeting. Senator Gronstal's motion was adopted.

**Urban Planning Study.** Senator Lundby was recognized to explain the request for \$50,000 to be available as a joint expense for the Commission on Urban Planning, Growth Management of Cities, and Protection of Farmland. The Senator indicated that in the request submitted to the Studies Committee, \$25,000 was to be used for a land use study with the balance for other needs, but that now the Commission wants to use up to \$40,000 to contract for a land use study by Iowa State University involving approximately 15 counties with the remaining \$10,000 being available for other costs. Senator Lundby noted that this request would not involve matching funding and that the Commission is still pursuing matching funding for moneys previously authorized to the Commission in November 1997. A motion for authorization of this proposal was made by Senator Gronstal and adopted without objection.

#### **4. Revision in Studies Guidelines.**

A motion by Chairperson Gipp was offered to revise the Studies Guidelines as they relate to compensation of public members to provide that in order for a public member representing an organization to be entitled to receive actual expenses the organization must submit a letter indicating the public member is not entitled to reimbursement from the organization. The motion was adopted unanimously.

#### **5. Loess Hills Area Conference.**

Senator Boettger proposed that the Committee approve holding a local conference relating to the Loess Hills with four legislators assigned to lead the conference and reimbursement for expenses also being authorized. Senator Boettger explained that this would be a conference involving the local citizenry and would be completed before any statewide interim committee would be established. She emphasized that legislative involvement is important, such as having legislative members present as the conference leaders. Representative Schrader expressed his concern with involving the General Assembly in what is plainly a local conference. Senator Boettger pointed out that the need for legislative leadership is due to the fact that no local jurisdiction can adequately handle the conference leadership since the Loess Hills area covers six to eight counties. Concern was expressed that by assigning legislative leadership to the conference, the conference would attain legislative status. Senator Kramer stated that the conference would not be a study. Senator Boettger stated that the planning group may submit a request at a later date for financial assistance to the conference. After further discussion it was proposed that the conference be endorsed but that no interim committee status be established at this time, although authorization for four legislators to provide leadership should be given. A motion to this effect was adopted by a majority of those present.



## **Studies Committee of the Legislative Council**

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### **6. Materials Received by the Committee.**

The following materials were received by the Committee and filed with the Legislative Service Bureau:

- ◆ Compilation of Required and Requested Studies, prepared by the Legislative Service Bureau.
- ◆ Proposed Studies Actions, prepared by Chairperson Gipp and Vice chairperson Iverson.
- ◆ Request for funding submitted by the Commission on Urban Planning, Growth Management of Cities, and Protection of Farmland.

### **7. Attachment.**

- ◆ Report of the Studies Committee to the Legislative Council.

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